

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
HILLER et al.) Art Unit: TO BE ASSIGNED
Serial No. TO BE ASSIGNED) Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED
Filed: WITH DIVISIONAL APPLICATION)
For: RECORDING MATERIAL COMPRISING SILICONE RUBBER AND IRON
OXIDES FOR PRODUCIING RELIEF PRINTING PLATES BY LASER
ENGRAVING

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present divisional application of SN 09/643,727,
kindly amend the application as follows.

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 1, insert the paragraph:

-- This application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/643,727, filed on August 23, 2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-9.

Add new claims 10-19 as follows:

10. (new) A process for producing a relief printing plate from a laser-engravable material, which comprises engraving a relief image into a laser-engravable recording material using a laser,

which recording material comprises a dimensionally stable support and a laser-engravable recording layer comprising at least one polymeric binder and at least one polymeric binder and a least one absorber for laser radiation,

wherein said polymeric binder is a silicone rubber and said absorber is a ferrous inorganic solid and/or carbon black, and wherein said laser-engravable recording layer has a thickness between 0.1 to 7 mm and wherein.

11. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein the laser-engravable recording layer has a thickness between 0.5 to 7 mm.

12. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein the recording material includes a removable cover sheet which is removed prior to the engraving with the laser.

13. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein the process is conducted in the presence of an oxygen containing gas.

14. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein said absorber is an iron oxide selected from the group consisting of FeOOH , Fe_2O_3 or Fe_3O_4 .

15. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein said recording layer includes further inorganic fillers.

16. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein said recording material includes an additional top layer which is not removed during the engraving with a laser.

17. (new) The process of claim 16 wherein said top layer includes an absorber for laser radiation.

18. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein said recording material comprises an additional bottom layer between the support and the laser-engravable recording layer.

19. (new) The process of claim 10 wherein a flexographic printing plate is formed.

REMARKS

This application has been filed as a result of the examiner's restriction requirement in the parent application, Application Serial No. 9/643,727, filed on August 23, 2000. All of the instant claims are drawn to the examiner's Group II, "drawn to a process for producing a relief plate...."

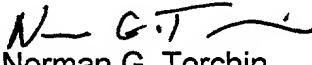
The instant claims pretty much follow the claims in the parent application. Support for claims 16 and 7 is found at page 7, line 37 to page 8, line 11.

Allowance of the present claims is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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Add new claims 10-19 as shown on the previous pages.